No. 643 of 1918.

Divan's Office, Savam

Dated, 4 th August 18.

From

Rajarao Vithal Mangalvedhekar, Esq., B.A.

Divan of Savanur.

To

Captain Meherban Nawabsahob Dilerjung

Bahadur Savanur State.

Sir,

With reference to your no.205 x dated 23rd --- March 1918 forwarding Political Agent's no.s.v.n.18 of 5th --- March 1918 and the notes made by the President District Local Board Dharwar, on the Savanur Hattimattur Railway station road, I have the honour to report as follows:-x

x Letter returned

2) First question, paras 1 2 & 3 of the President's Notes.

It appears from the correspondence in my office that the question of the Savanur Hattimatuur Railway station road -- was discussed by the Karjagi and the Bankapur Taluka Local ---- Boards and the Savanur State, before its construction was under taken at the cost of the two Boards and the State. Resolutions for the payment of contribution were also passed by t[redacted] -- Taluka Local Boards. There is no record in my office [redacted] -- whether or not the Karjagi Taluka Board passed a res[redacted] -- asking the State to undertake the construction. The Karjagi T.L. B. had then only a Maistry and not a qualified Overseer to --- look after its works. Mr. Hardy, President of the T.L.B. Karjagi and Mr. Turner, President of the T.L.B. Bankapur and Assistant --- Political Agent of the Savanur State, appear to have thought, - in the circumsatnces and in the interests of all parties con- -cerned, that the construction of the road had better be entru- -sted to the P.W.D. of the Savanur State which consisted of a - qualified State Overseer and an adequate subordinate establish- -ment.

The President D.L.B's assumption that the Bankapur -- T.L.B. was not consulted in the matter, is not correct. As -----

Mr.Turner, the President of the T.L.B.Bankapur, authorised the -- Divan to start the work, it is presumed that the Bankapur T.L. B.was aware of all the proceedings in connection with the road.

Second question:- para 4 of the notes .

The necessity of special repairs ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in the way of having a metalled road estimated to cost Rs.5000/-, -- was represented to the two Boards. The T.L.B.of Karjagi agreed to bear a third share of the cost but asked that it may be all--owed to pay its share by instalments .The T.L.B.of Bankapur, -- too, similarly agreed to the proposal, though after a deal of ~~xxx~~ correspondence and discussion.

Para 5----

The estimate of special repairs for Rs.5000/- was framed by the State Overseer and was revised and checked by the Executive Engineer Dharwar District.

The estimate of R .600/- related to the expendit--ure on the road on account of current and special repairs -- recurring annually. The estimate of Rs.5000/-referred to above related to special repairs i.e. metalling the road.

It is not understood how and why the two Boards were, as stated by the President D.L.B, taken by surprise when ~~xx~~ the object of the two estimates was clearly before them. In the year in which the special repairs were carried out, the Karjagi-- T.L.B.paid only the first promised instalment of a third share of .5000/-. It is not clear on what authority the President - says that "It did not even raise any objection to the payment of Rs.200/- also in the year in which special repairs worth --- Rs.5000/-were carried out." This amount was never claimed by the State.

The two T.L.Bs. were consulted, as a matter of fact, before incurring the special expenditure on special repairs and the President's statement that the Boards were ~~xxxxx~~ never -- consulted is not supported by records. The two Boards did not -- apparently consider it necessary to call for details of the --- actual expenditure and to countersign the completion certifi--cates in the year in which special repairs were carried out, as

they apparently know that the estimate was reviewed and checked by the Executive Engineer and the construction was entrusted to an Overseer on the State P. .D staff who was competent and experienced.The State would have readily supplied any details, if they were called for by the Boards.With these safe guards,the two Boards probably considered it superfluous to call for any details in subsequent years.European Officers - (Presidents and A.P.Agents)of the position of messrs Turner,-- Hardy,Gould,Shannon,and others obviously thought that the road was safe in the hands of a competent P. .D. staff of the State. It is not understood what state of things the President looked to and what inquires he made,when he remarked that it did not - appear that any repairs were done to the road during the - last three years.His remark that,an initial mistake was made in -- having no scheme properly prepared is equally unintelligible.

Half the cost of repairs done to the Pala Badami Road ---- running through the State limits belonging to the District Local Board is paid by the State without making any inquiry as to the details of the actual expenditure and without counter-signing the completion certificates.A copy of the letter from the Executive Engineer Dharwar District addressed to the Chair-man D.L.B. is usually forwarded by him to the Divan with a --- request topay a moiety of the cost shown in the Executive Engi--neer's letter and the amount is remitted without a demur and without calling for any details.On the same analogy, the T.L.Bs. probably thought that no useful purpose was served by callimg -- for any details.Institutions of a public nature can never get - on without mutual co-operation and,what is more important,---- without mutual trust.

Para 6-------

The President's remarks that the road was was constructed-simply for the convenience of the Savanur people strikes one as strange.It may,however, be noted here that Presid--dents of T.L.Bs.held different views.They were unanimous in -- thinking that the road was as useful to the villages of the --- Bankapur Taluka as it was to the villages of Karjagi Taluka and

the people of Savanur.Mr. Gould goes a step further and says that the road is more useful to the villages of the Bankapur -- Taluka and Savanur people than to the Karjagi people,and says in support of his argument that there is only one village in the Karjagi Taluka which is on or near the road.

The Kala Badami road crosses the Savanur State and is - more useful to the Bankapur Taluka people than to the Savanur people.But that is not considered an argument for the State to withdraw its contribution.It has been paying half the cost of - repairs to the road for a series of years.The then Presidents of the T.L.Boards do not appear to have thought that an expendi -ture of Rs.1700/-(on special repairs to the road)by each of the T.L.Boards and the Savanur State, was out of keeping with -- the exigencies of the case.The traffic on the road had immense- -ly increased and a Murum road, found not to meet the require--- -ments and inconvenience of the public.The road to the Yalvigi- Station was and is still dangerous.Robberies and murders have - occurred on the road.The Government mail was robbed once or thrice.The Presidents of T.L.Boards, - therefore, thought that the Savanur Hattimattur road was necess- -ary in the interests of public convenience and safety.

Para 7.------

It would have been very instructive if - the President had given the reasons which he bases his re-- -marks.There is no record, at any rate,in this office to show - that the two Boards bound themselves (1)not to call for accounts,not to look to the expenditure and not to sign com-- -pletion certificates whenever money was spent on the road and - (2)to continue to credit Rs.700/- every year, though the State should or should not spend that money on any repairs, according to its pleasure.The State authorities,it must be admitted in-- -fairness,never asked the Boards to continue to pay money, though no repairs were executed in any year and not to call for any ac -counts or other details they required.

Para 8.---

It was for the Taluka or District Local --

Boards to have looked into the technical objection, if there was any, for the payment of contribution to the State without Govern-ment sanction. The then Presidents of the Boards appear to have considered that it was not worth while troubling Government in a small matter like this.

Para 9.---

There are fine road side trees on the part of the road lying in the limits of the State, which are a source of comfort to the travellers. The question of plant-ing trees on the remaining portion of the road was proposed by the State and accepted by the Karjagi Board in their laudable desire to supplement the comforts and convenience of travellers. It may be noted here that the State came forward to contribute money for this purpose in view entirely of public convenience and public interests, though the road lay in the limits of the Karjagi T.L.B.

Para 10.---

If the D.L.B. is willing to take up the ----- whole of the road and to keep in a state of repairs, from time to time, the State would be quite willing to pay a third share of the total cost but if that is not possible, the State would repair and maintain the road in its limits at its own cost.

Para 11.---

The statements, estimates and completion certi-ficates required are hereto appended. The second cluase of the para has alread been replied to.

Para 12.---

A statement giving the information required in the last portion of the para is also enclosed. It will give an idea of the total expenditure on the road, the amounts paid by the Bankapur and Karjagi T.L.Bs. and the balances still due by them.

para 13.---

It is not intelligible what the object is in asking the State to pay Rs. 200/- a year, in perpetuity, to the D.L.B. It is hoped that, it is not intended that the payment is to be made, in perpetuity, though repairs are or are not carried

out by the Board in any year. The payment of a third share of the total cost, whatever it may be and whenever it may be incurred, would be quite reasonable.

3) It is desirable that the question of repairing the Savanur Hattimattur Railway Station road may be settled at an early date, as on that question will depend the payment of the State - contribution to the Pala Badami road. No useful purpose is served, I humbly think, in raking up matters which are no less than 8 years old and which were disposed of under instructions from Presidents of T.L.Boards and A.T.Agents.

4) I regret the delay occasioned in replying to the reference. The Overseer who is a new arrival and who is new to his work, -- could not supply the information required at an earlier date and the accounts of the two offices had to be tallied.

I have the honour to be,

sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Divan of Savanur.